

# 3DEP COALITION

June 25, 2021

The Honorable Jeff Merkley  
Chairman

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
Ranking Member

Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies  
U.S. Senate  
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Merkley and Ranking Member Murkowski:

We, the undersigned organizations, enthusiastically support the U.S. Geological Survey's 3D Elevation Program ([3DEP](#)). As you develop FY 2022 appropriations, we ask for your support for the USGS recommendation to provide [\\$146 million](#) to 3DEP on behalf of the [3DEP Coalition](#).

3DEP will satisfy the growing demand for consistent, high-quality topographic data and a wide range of other three-dimensional representations of the Nation's natural and constructed features. The USGS has identified more than [600 applications](#) that would benefit from enhanced elevation data. Data procured from 3DEP can be applied to [flood risk management](#); [infrastructure](#); [landslides and other hazards](#); water resources; aviation safety; [telecommunications](#); homeland security; emergency response; [precision agriculture](#); [energy](#); [pipeline safety](#); and other areas. 3DEP will promote economic growth, facilitate responsible environmental protection and resource development and management, assist with infrastructure improvement, and generally enhance the quality of life of all Americans.

The USGS, with involvement from the private sector and other stakeholders, conducted a National Enhanced Elevation Assessment ([NEEA](#)), to determine and document the need for national elevation data within government and private markets. The results indicated that enhanced elevation data could have the potential to generate \$13 billion in annual benefits, at a benefit-to-cost ratio of 4.7 to 1. The \$146 million we are requesting will enable USGS to achieve nationwide coverage of the United States on an 8-year cycle, as originally conceived in the USGS plan for 3DEP.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our views and we look forward to working with the subcommittee to continue the work to build on past success and further improve the Interior Department's surveying, mapping and geospatial activities including the collection, management, and dissemination of enhanced elevation data through the USGS 3DEP.

Respectfully,

Air Medical Operators Association  
ALERT Users Group  
Alliance of Crop, Soil, and Environmental Science Societies  
American Bankers Association  
American Council of Engineering Companies  
American Geosciences Institute  
American Institute of Professional Geologists  
American Petroleum Institute  
American Property Casualty Insurance Association  
American Public Works Association  
American Society for Horticultural Science  
American Society of Agronomy

American Society of Civil Engineers  
American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers  
American Water Resources Association  
American Water Works Association  
Association of American State Geologists  
Association of Environmental & Engineering Geologists  
Association of Equipment Manufacturers  
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies  
Association of State Dam Safety Officials  
Association of State Floodplain Managers  
Association of State Wetland Managers  
Center for Data Innovation  
Council of State Community Development Agencies  
Crop Science Society of America  
Geospatial Equipment & Technology Institute  
Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety  
U.S. Council, International Association of Emergency Managers  
International Code Council  
Interstate Council on Water Policy  
Irrigation Association  
Land Improvement Contractors of America  
NATE: The Communications Infrastructure Contractors Association  
National Agricultural Aviation Association  
National Apartment Association  
National Association of Counties  
National Association of Development Organizations  
National Association of REALTORS®  
National EMS Pilots Association  
National Flood Association  
National Ground Water Association  
National Hydrologic Warning Council  
National Hydropower Association  
National Multifamily Housing Council  
National Society of Professional Surveyors  
National States Geographic Information Council  
National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association  
National Water Resources Association  
National Wildlife Federation  
Rural & Agriculture Council of America  
Society for Range Management  
Society of Economic Geologists  
Soil and Water Conservation Society  
Soil Science Society of America  
The Nature Conservancy  
U.S. Geospatial Executives Organization

cc: Chair Rosa DeLauro and Ranking Member Kay Granger, Fellow Committee Members

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